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9 June 1954

INDOCHINA

I. Army attaché Saigon reiterates expectation heavy Viet Minh delta campaign.

A. Redeployment battle corps nearing completion.

B. Viet Minh combat strength:

C. French combat strength:

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II. Attached room piecemeal use of divisions, not mass assault.

III. Indications French may withdraw to Haiphong.

A. Cogny fears instability hold Hanoi, says rather than another Dien Bien Phu he would withdraw to Haiphong.

DIA review(s) completed.

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B. Attaché estimates withdrawal would occur within 30 days of major attack--city low on coal and rice supplies.

IV. Continued attacks expected meanwhile on Hanoi-Haiphong routes and in southern delta.

A. Cutting of Hanoi's supply routes to be intensified.

B. Three-regiment task force organized to take Phu Ly.

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V. Further action indicated northern Laos.

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VII. Ely-Salan team may indicate French
hope for early settlement.

- A. Ely essentially staff officer.
- B. Salan's defensive-mindedness.
- C. Salan possibly chosen to
administer armistice.
- D. This connection, Dupont favors
partition at Col de Nuages,
north of Tourane.

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